

Application No. 10/665,500
Amendment dated March 7, 2006
Reply to Office Action of December 7, 2005

Docket No.: 2450-0552P

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are now present in this application.

Claim 1 has been amended and claims 11 and 12 have been presented. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-10 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Wu, U.S. Patent 6,074,296, in view of Ferchau et al., U.S. Patent 4,899,254. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

It seems that the Wu patent discloses an arrangement similar to the prior art design shown in Fig. 1 of the application. As explained in the specification, such a design has problems. For example, the through holes can be deformed when screws are fastened thereto. The varying depth, stresses and deformation which occur to the fan structure are also different. As a result, the distance between the fan spindle and various corners can be different. When the fan rotates, the air pressure in various corners will be different. This causes a decrease in the heat dissipation performance. Eccentric vibrations can arise, especially in large fans. Aside from spindle generating vibration, abnormal noise can occur and malfunctions can happen. Over a period of time, the vanes tend to gather dust and they must be cleared to avoid affecting operation. The screws will be unfastened from the through holes, which can break easily. Anchoring and fastening in the succeeding reassembly operation becomes difficult.

The Examiner has modified the Wu patent in view of the Ferchau et al. patent. However, the Ferchau et al. patent teaches mounting of fans by push-on fasteners to speed up initial assembly and to make replacement of the fans easier (note column 2, lines 36-38). This is again discussed in column 5, beginning at line 30, where fans are mounted to the circuit board 14 using

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conventional spring clip push mounts 84, 85. If one were to modify the mounting arrangement of Wu in view of the teachings of Ferchau et al., it is respectfully submitted that the fan of Wu would be mounted by a spring clip push mount. This is the teaching found in the Ferchau et al. patent. The anchor structure for fans of the present invention would neither be suggested nor rendered obvious by the utilized prior art.

The Examiner, however, is using a mounting arrangement shown in Fig. 2d of Ferchau et al. This modification seems improper since Ferchau et al. teaches mounting a fan using spring clips. The arrangement shown in Fig. 2d is for the block 31. This block has connectors 32, 37. Thus, this is a mounting arrangement for a block and connectors and not for the fan. To use the arrangement of Fig. 2d for mounting the fans would seem to be hindsight.

Nonetheless, even assuming *en arguendo* that the Fig. 2d mounting arrangement could be used for mounting the fan of Wu, the anchor structure of the present invention would not be suggested. Claim 1 recites a first fastening element and a second fastening element. The first fastening element has a through hole while the second fastening element runs from a front end of the through hole to engage with the fastening element. A length of the second fastening element is less than the length of the through hole. In the Fig. 2d arrangement of Ferchau et al., on the other hand, the screw 47 extends completely through the through hole. The exterior head 43 and end can be seen on both sides of the through hole in Fig. 2d. Thus, the arrangement of a length of the second fastening element being less than a length of the through hole is not shown.

The dependent claims further distinguish the instant invention. For example, dependent claim 11 recites that an interior of the first fastening element and the second fastening element have interconnecting threads for a rigid screw connection. The Ferchau et al. arrangement, on the

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other hand, has a pair of fasteners 43 passing through oversized holes 45 in block 31, as explained in column 4, lines 12-14. This arrangement enables a loose connector so that the connectors 32, 37 can shift or float relative to one another (again, note column 4, lines 21-24 of Ferchau et al.). Thus, a rigid screw arrangement with interconnecting threads is not found. When mounting fans, there is a desire to have them in place so that they do not rattle and make noise and create other problems. It is therefore respectfully submitted that the Fig. 2d arrangement of Ferchau et al. would not lend itself to use in mounting fan structures.

Dependent claim 12 brings out that a first fastening element has a cap on one end which completely covers the end of the first fastening element. The first fastening element is the element with the through hole. The standoff 51 of Ferchau et al. has both ends open so that the screw 47 can pass therethrough. Thus, one end of the first fastening element is not completely covered with a cap in the Ferchau et al. arrangement. Nonetheless, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 sets forth an anchor structure which is neither suggested nor rendered obvious by the prior art utilized by the Examiner. As such, it is respectfully requested that the 35 USC 103 rejection now be reconsidered and withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of the instant application are earnestly solicited.

In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

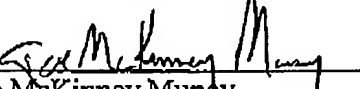
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Respectfully submitted,

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